

ATTACHMENT 4.2 (c)

Summary of Input and Recommendation of the State Rehabilitation Council; Response of the Designated State Unit; and Explanations for Rejection of Input or Recommendations

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) established an Advisory Council in the early 1970's. Since the Council's inception, it has operated to evaluate, provide input and make recommendations regarding USOR's policies, operations and practices. The Council also provides input relative to agency planning, program improvement, legislative and budget proposals, public relations, and employer relations.

The Council's present purpose, membership requirements, frequency of meetings, term of office and activities are in compliance with the Workforce Investment Act, Title IV the Rehabilitation Act as amended.

The State Rehabilitation Council meets monthly and reviews pertinent issues. Following is a summary of the Council's recommendations made during FY 2005 and USOR's response to the recommendations made. It should be noted that the State Rehabilitation Council annual report to the Rehabilitation Service Administration is due by December 30th each year.

Council Recommendation	USOR Response
1. The Council continues in its request to allow for SRC members to participate in the USOR internal annual statewide case file review training as they may desire.	1. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation supports involvement of State Rehabilitation Council members who desire to participate in the preparatory training for the internal statewide case file review which is conducted annually. Invitation to participate is made during Council meetings.

Council Recommendation	USOR Response
<p>2. The Council continues to provide recommendation for addition of caseloads as one measure to improve caseload size.</p>	<p>2. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation supported the recommendation of the Council and established 5 additional caseloads within USOR in FY 05 to reduce caseload sizes to the other surrounding caseloads of the area.</p>
<p>3. The Council supported the efforts of the agency last year in implementing a recruitment and retention plan to obtain and retain quality staff. The Council requests and recommends they be provided periodic updates of the effectiveness of this recruitment and retention effort.</p>	<p>3. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation implemented the recruitment and retention plan in FY 2004, in part, on the supportive recommendation of the State Rehabilitation Council to do so. The agency plans on providing periodic updates to the SRC, and agency staff as sufficient data on the effectiveness of the recruitment and retention becomes available.</p>
<p>4. The Council continues to provide input in support of ongoing development of informed choice for clients receiving rehabilitation services. Recommendations made are for development beyond informed choice notification within the orientation process (FY'05 SRC recommendation) to establish the philosophy of informed choice throughout the rehabilitation process.</p>	<p>4. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation supports the recommendations made by the State Rehabilitation Council. With the orientation process completed and a working definition of informed choice developed, the agency has emphasized informed choice in monthly random case file reviews, the state's annual statewide case file review exercise and its results. Findings were included in report of these activities, and training to address informed choice was developed and presented to all agency counseling staff in Winter/Spring of 2005.</p>

Council Recommendation	USOR Response
<p>5. The Council recommends ongoing cross-training and other activities between USOR rehabilitation counselors and Transition professionals in school districts statewide to address turnover in Transition counselors statewide.</p>	<p>5. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation continues to strongly support this recommendation. USOR is partnering with the Utah State Office of Education to conduct a statewide Transition Conference in April 2005. Additionally, Transition is addressed in the agency Basic Counselor Orientation & Training exercise with new counseling staff right after hire, and is developed on the local level between designated VR counselors and each school district in Utah.</p>
<p>6. The Council makes the recommendation to USOR to engage in the study of natural and other supports to develop viable policy, procedure and long term funding resources for individuals in need of Supported Employment to achieve employment outcomes.</p>	<p>6. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation supports this recommendation. USOR is partnering with the Division of Services to People with Disabilities (DSPD) to conduct a study, the results of which will be used to establish a strategic plan to address goals for long term funding for Supported Employment. A Supported Employment Revitalization Pilot Project is also in development between USOR and DSPD.</p>
<p>7. The Council recommends that USOR present, for the Council to review and advise on, the policies and procedures for supporting and providing services toward self employment as an employment outcome option.</p>	<p>7. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation finds this an appropriate recommendation. The topic of self employment policies and procedures is added as an agenda item for discussion and feedback at an upcoming Council meeting.</p>
<p>8. The Council recommends that USOR provide education on agency legislative needs in order for effective advocacy from the Council to meet the needs for clients in achieving employment outcomes.</p>	<p>8. USOR supports the Council in their request and provided copies of and education to the legislative building blocks in monthly Council meetings prior to and during the legislative session.</p>